

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants filed this continuation application to pursue claims directed to a prosthesis assembly. Claims 54-60, now pending in this application, were substantially copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,524,336, which issued to Papazolgou et al. on February 25, 2003.

Applicants present this Preliminary Amendment in conjunction with a Request by Applicants for Interference Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.607 wherein Applicants respectfully request that an interference be declared between this application and U.S. Patent No. 6,524,336. The information required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a) is set forth below, under headings which correspond to the subsections of § 1.607(a) to facilitate consideration by the Examiner.

I. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PATENT WHICH INCLUDES SUBJECT MATTER WHICH INTERFERES WITH THE APPLICATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(1))

The patent which claims subject matter which interferes with subject matter claimed in the present application ("the Goicoechea application") is U.S. Patent No. 6,524,336 ("the Papazolgou patent"), which issued on February 25, 2003 to Papazolgou et al. for "ENDOVASCULAR GRAFT." The Papazolgou patent was issued from Application Serial No. 09/286,910 ("the Papazolgou application"), filed April 6, 1999. Cook Incorporated (Bloomington, IN); William Cook, Europe A/S (Bjaeverskov, DK) are the assignees named on the face of the Papazolgou patent. A copy of the Papazolgou patent is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

II. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED COUNT (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(2))

Attached Appendix A sets forth the Proposed Count. The Proposed Count is at least as broad as claim 1 of the Papazolgou patent. Claim 54 of the Goicoechea application corresponds exactly to the Proposed Count.

III. IDENTIFICATION OF AT LEAST ONE CLAIM OF THE PAPAZOLGOU PATENT WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE PROPOSED COUNT (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(3))

Claims 1-3 and 17-20 of the Papazolgou patent correspond to the Proposed Count. In order to assist the Examiner, attached Appendix B sets forth a side-by-side comparison of claim 1 of the Papazolgou patent with the Proposed Count.

IV. CLAIMS OF THE GOICOECHEA APPLICATION WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE PROPOSED COUNT (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(4))

Claims 54-60 of the Goicoechea application correspond to the Proposed Count. Claim 54 of the Goicoechea application is identical to the Proposed Count. Claims 55-60 of the Goicoechea application are directed to the same patentable invention as the Proposed Count.

V. APPLICATION OF TERMS OF THE CLAIMS TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE APPLICATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(5))

To assist the Examiner, Applicants attach Appendix C. Appendix C is a chart providing an element-by-element recitation of the claims of the Goicoechea application identified in Section IV as corresponding to the Proposed Count and an indication of exemplary passages in the Goicoechea application where, at the very least, the claims find support.

The present Goicoechea application is a continuation of Serial No. 08/463,987, filed June 5, 1995, now pending, which is a division of Serial No. 08/317,763, filed October 4, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/312,881, filed September 27, 1994, now pending. The present application is also a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/312,881.

Benefit is also claimed based on EP 94400284.9, filed February 9, 1994, and EP 94401306.9, filed June 10, 1994, copies of which are enclosed.

Appendices D, E, and F are charts providing an element-by-element recitation of the claims of the Goicoechea application and an indication of exemplary passages in Serial No. 08/312,881, EP 94401306.9, and EP 94400284.9, respectively, where, at the very least, the claims find support. This Goicoechea application should be accorded benefit of these prior applications in the declaration of interference. Accordingly, the effective U.S. filing date of this Goicoechea application is September 27, 1994, and the effective foreign filing date of this Goicoechea application is February 9, 1994.¹

¹ The Examiner's attention is directed to the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated July 27, 2001, in Interference No. 104,192, copy enclosed. The BPAI decision has been contested in Civil Action No. 01-CV-2015 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Goicoechea et al. should also be designated as the senior party in the interference as having an effective filing date earlier than April 9, 1998, the earliest effective filing date that can be alleged by Papazolgou. Goicoechea et al. should be entitled to an effective filing date of February 9, 1994 based on the filing date of EP 94400284.9. If Goicoechea et al. is not accorded the filing date of EP 94400284.9 or 94401306.9, it should be entitled to an effective filing date of September 27, 1994, based upon on the filing date of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/312,881, which also predates April 9, 1998.

VI. 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) IS SATISFIED (37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a)(6))

Claims of the Goicoechea application which are the same as, or for the same or substantially the same subject matter as, claims of the Papazolgou patent were made within one year from the date on which the Papazolgou patent was granted. Specifically, the pending claims are presented herewith, within one year from February 25, 2003, the date on which the Papazolgou patent was granted. Accordingly, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 135(b) are satisfied.

VII. PRIOR ART TO CLAIMS OF THE PAPAZOLGOU PATENT

U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627, which issued March 11, 1997 as a result of Application No. 08/317,763 filed by Goicoechea et al. on October 4, 1994, qualifies as prior art to the Papazolgou claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. A copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 anticipates or renders obvious each of claims 1-3, 17-20 of the Papazolgo patent. U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 does not qualify as prior art to the present Goicoechea application, which has an effective filing date at least as early as September 27, 1994 as set forth above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that an interference be declared employing the Proposed Count, as set forth on attached Appendix A, with claims 1-3, 17-20 of the Papazolgou patent and claims 54-60 of this application designated as corresponding thereto.

Respectfully submitted,


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 Attorney for Applicants

JLC/lk/pb

Attachments: U.S. Patent No. 6,524,336
 U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627
 Appendix A-F
 Copy of BPAI Decision Dated July 27, 2001
 Copy of European Applications EP 94400284.9 and EP 94401306.9

Dated: February 23, 2004

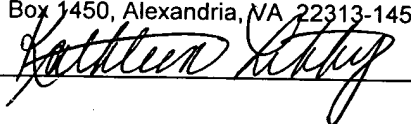
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APPENDIX A

PROPOSED COUNT

A prosthesis assembly comprising:

a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;

at least one distal prosthesis;

the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,

wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and

wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.

APPENDIX B

<u>PAPAZOLGOU CLAIM 1</u>	<u>PROPOSED COUNT</u>
A graft, comprising:	A prosthesis assembly comprising:
a main graft having a proximal end and a distal end,	a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end,
the main graft further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;	the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;
at least one expandable peripheral artery graft,	at least one distal prosthesis;
the main graft also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one expandable peripheral artery graft;	the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,
wherein the main graft and the at least one expandable peripheral artery graft each comprises an expandable stent and at least one cover over and/or in the expandable stent; and	wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and
wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one expandable peripheral artery graft when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the grafts.	wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.

APPENDIX C**APPLICATION OF THE GOICOECHEA CLAIMS TO THE DISCLOSURE OF THE
GOICOECHEA APPLICATION**

Application claim	Disclosure of Goicoechea Application
Claim 54	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end,	page 30, line 23 to page 33, line 12; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;	page 28, line 25 to page 29 line 4; page 30, lines 23-27; page 31, line 26 to page 32, line 2; page 33, lines 12-16
at least one distal prosthesis;	page 31, lines 10-18; page 32, lines 9-13; page 33, lines 1-6; Figs. 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 30, lines 23-27; page 32, lines 9-13; page 33, lines 1-6; Figs. 1B, 5-7
wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and	page 22, lines 17-22; page 27, lines 3-8; page 29, lines 14-18; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.	page 32, lines 17-25
Claim 55	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has a first intermediate portion which is extended to form a distal portion,	page 31, lines 19-26; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
and a second intermediate portion which has a distal orifice which has a relatively short inclined extension to enable the distal prosthesis to be located therein when the short extension has been expanded,	page 31, lines 19-23; page 32, lines 9-21; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
the distal prosthesis having a proximal end which when expanded will form a seal with the short extension.	page 32, lines 17-25; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6

Claim 56	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has first and second distal portions,	page 30, line 23 to page 31, line 4; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the first distal portion having the at least one distal orifice	page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1B, 5
and the second distal portion having another distal orifice for the receipt of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1B, 5
each of which will have a stent expandable to a cross-sectional area sufficiently greater than the cross-sectional area(s) of the distal orifices so that effective seals are formed.	page 32, lines 17-25
Claim 57	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
a) a proximal prosthesis having a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a proximal orifice;	page 28, lines 18-21; page 30, line 23 to page 32, line 2; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
b) first and second distal prostheses;	page 11, lines 22-25; page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
c) the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end that when expanded receives at least one proximal end of the first and second distal prostheses;	page 28, lines 18-21; page 30, line 23 to page 32, line 2; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
d) wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent; and	page 6, lines 1-6; page 31, lines 3-4; page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
e) wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice, so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 2
Claim 58	
wherein the proximal prosthesis further comprises an expandable stent.	page 28, lines 18-21; page 30, lines 23-25; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
Claim 59	
wherein each of the distal prostheses further comprises an expandable stent.	page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5

Claim 60	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
a proximal prosthesis,	page 30, lines 23-26; Fig. 5
a pair of distal prostheses,	page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a distal end and a proximal orifice,	page 28, lines 18-21; page 30, lines 23-26; Fig. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive proximal ends of the pair of distal prostheses,	page 30, line 23 to page 31, line 18; Figs. 1B, 5
wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent,	page 28, lines 18-21; page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1B, 5
and wherein the cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of the cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the pair of distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 2

APPENDIX D**APPLICATION OF THE GOICOECHEA CLAIMS TO THE DISCLOSURE OF U.S.
APPLICATION NO. 08/312,881**

Application claim	Disclosure of Application No. 08/312,881
Claim 54	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end,	page 26, line 16 to page 29, line 15; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;	page 24, lines 13-20; page 26, lines 16-20; page 27, lines 20-25; page 29, lines 15-19
at least one distal prosthesis;	page 27, lines 5-13; page 28, lines 7-11; page 29, lines 2-8; Figs. 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 26, lines 16-20; page 28, lines 7-11; page 29, lines 2-8; Figs. 1B, 5-7
wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and	page 18, lines 8-13; page 22, lines 18-23; page 25, lines 6-10; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.	page 28, lines 16-24

Claim 55	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has a first intermediate portion which is extended to form a distal portion,	page 27, lines 15-22
and a second intermediate portion which has a distal orifice which has a relatively short inclined extension to enable the distal prosthesis to be located therein when the short extension has been expanded,	page 27, lines 15-19; page 28, lines 7-20
the distal prosthesis having a proximal end which when expanded will form a seal with the short extension.	page 28, lines 16-24
Claim 56	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has first and second distal portions,	page 16, lines 16-25; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the first distal portion having the at least one distal orifice	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1B, 5
and the second distal portion having another distal orifice for the receipt of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1B, 5
each of which will have a stent expandable to a cross-sectional area sufficiently greater than the cross-sectional area(s) of the distal orifices so that effective seals are formed.	page 28, lines 16-24
Claim 57	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
a) a proximal prosthesis having a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a proximal orifice;	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, line 16 to page 27, line 25; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
b) first and second distal prostheses;	page 11, lines 15-17; page 27, lines 5-13
c) the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end that when expanded receives at least one proximal end of the first and second distal prostheses;	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, line 16 to page 27, line 25
d) wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent; and	page 5, lines 18-24; page 26, lines 23-25; page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
e) wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice, so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, lines 14-25

Claim 58	
wherein the proximal prosthesis further comprises an expandable stent.	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, lines 16-19; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
Claim 59	
wherein each of the distal prostheses further comprises an expandable stent.	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
Claim 60	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
a proximal prosthesis,	page 26, lines 16-20; Fig. 5
a pair of distal prostheses,	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a distal end and a proximal orifice,	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, lines 16-20; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive proximal ends of the pair of distal prostheses,	page 26, line 16 to page 27, line 13; Figs. 1B, 5
wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent,	page 24, lines 5-9; page 27, lines 5-13; page 31, lines 10-18; Figs. 1B, 5
and wherein the cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of the cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the pair of distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, lines 14-25

APPENDIX E**APPLICATION OF THE GOICOECHEA CLAIMS TO THE DISCLOSURE OF
EP APPLICATION NO. 94401306.9**

Application claim	Disclosure of EP Application No. 94401306.9
Claim 54	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end,	page 26, line 16 to page 29, line 15; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;	page 24, lines 13-20; page 26, lines 16-20; page 27, lines 22-25' page 29, lines 15-19
at least one distal prosthesis;	page 27, lines 5-13 page 28, lines 7-11; page 29, lines 2-8; Figs. 1B, 5-7
the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 26, lines 16-20; page 28, lines 7-11; page 29, lines 2-8; Figs. 1B, 5-7
wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and	page 18, lines 8-13; page 22, lines 18-23; page 25, lines 6-10; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.	page 28, lines 16-24
Claim 55	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has a first intermediate portion which is extended to form a distal portion,	page 27, lines 15-24; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
and a second intermediate portion which has a distal orifice which has a relatively short inclined extension to enable the distal prosthesis to be located therein when the short extension has been expanded,	page 27, lines 15-19; page 28, lines 7-20; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
the distal prosthesis having a proximal end which when expanded will form a seal with the short extension.	page 28, lines 16-24; Figs 1A, 1B, 6

Claim 56	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has first and second distal portions,	page 26, lines 16-25; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the first distal portion having the at least one distal orifice	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1B, 5
and the second distal portion having another distal orifice for the receipt of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1B, 5
each of which will have a stent expandable to a cross-sectional area sufficiently greater than the cross-sectional area(s) of the distal orifices so that effective seals are formed.	page 28, lines 16-24
Claim 57	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
a) a proximal prosthesis having a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a proximal orifice;	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, line 16 to page 29 line 15; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
b) first and second distal prostheses;	page 11, lines 15-18; page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
c) the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end that when expanded receives at least one proximal end of the first and second distal prostheses;	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, line 16 to page 29, line 15; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
d) wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent; and	page 5, lines 18-24; page 26, lines 23-25; page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6,
e) wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice, so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, lines 14-25
Claim 58	
wherein the proximal prosthesis further comprises an expandable stent.	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, lines 16-19; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5-7
Claim 59	
wherein each of the distal prostheses further comprises an expandable stent.	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5

Claim 60	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
a proximal prosthesis,	page 26, lines 16-20; Fig. 5
a pair of distal prostheses,	page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a distal end and a proximal orifice,	page 24, lines 5-9; page 26, lines 16-20; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive proximal ends of the pair of distal prostheses,	page 26, line 16 to page 27, line 13; Figs. 1B, 5
wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent,	page 24, lines 5-9; page 27, lines 5-13; Figs. 1B, 5
and wherein the cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of the cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the pair of distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 12, lines 14-25

APPENDIX F**APPLICATION OF THE GOICOECHEA CLAIMS TO THE
EP APPLICATION 94400284.9**

Application claim	Disclosure of EP Application No. 94400284.9
Claim 54	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
a proximal prosthesis having a proximal end and a distal end,	page 23, line 6 to page 24, line 13 Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
the proximal prosthesis further having a proximal orifice at the proximal end to be located in and when expanded to be supported by a vascular vessel;	page 8, lines 17-21; page 21, lines 1-8; page 23, lines 6-10
at least one distal prosthesis;	page 4, lines 1-21; page 24, lines 6-13; Figs 1B, 5-6
the proximal prosthesis also having at least one distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive a proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 4, lines 1-21; page 23, lines 6-10; Figs. 1B, 5, 6
wherein the proximal prosthesis and the at least one distal prosthesis each comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the expandable stent; and	page 15, lines 4-9; page 19, lines 15-18; page 21, lines 16-20; Figs. 1B, 5, 6
wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice when expanded is sufficiently less than that of the proximal end of the at least one distal prosthesis when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal between the proximal and distal prostheses.	page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 17
Claim 55	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has a first intermediate portion which is extended to form a distal portion,	page 24, lines 6-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
and a second intermediate portion which has a distal orifice which has a relatively short inclined extension to enable the distal prosthesis to be located therein when the short extension has been expanded,	page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 17; page 24, lines 6-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6
the distal prosthesis having a proximal end which when expanded will form a seal with the short extension.	page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 17; Figs. 1A, 1B, 6

Claim 56	
wherein the distal end of the proximal prosthesis has first and second distal portions,	page 23, lines 6-15; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the first distal portion having the at least one distal orifice	page 24, lines 6-13; Figs. 1B, 5
and the second distal portion having another distal orifice for the receipt of the at least one distal prosthesis,	page 24, lines 6-13; Figs. 1B, 5
each of which will have a stent expandable to a cross-sectional area sufficiently greater than the cross-sectional area(s) of the distal orifices so that effective seals are formed.	page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 17
Claim 57	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
a) a proximal prosthesis having a distal end, the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a proximal orifice;	page 8, lines 17-21; page 20, lines 17-21; page 23, line 6 to page 24, line 13;
b) first and second distal prostheses;	page 23, line 22 to page 24, line 4; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
c) the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end that when expanded receives at least one proximal end of the first and second distal prostheses;	page 8, lines 17-21; page 20, lines 17-21; page 23, line 6 to page 24, line 13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
d) wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent; and	page 5, lines 11-17; page 23, lines 13-15; page 23, lines 6-10; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
e) wherein a cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice, so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 10; Figs. 5, 6

Claim 58	
wherein the proximal prosthesis further comprises an expandable stent.	page 20, lines 17-21; page 23, lines 6-8; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5, 6
Claim 59	
wherein each of the distal prostheses further comprises an expandable stent.	page 23, line 22-page 24, line 13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
Claim 60	
A prosthesis assembly comprising:	Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
a proximal prosthesis,	page 23, lines 6-10; Fig. 5
a pair of distal prostheses,	page 24, lines 6-13; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis being expandable and having a distal end and a proximal orifice,	page 20, lines 17-21; page 23, lines 6-10; Figs. 1A, 1B, 5
the proximal prosthesis also having a distal orifice at the distal end which when expanded serves to receive proximal ends of the pair of distal prostheses,	page 23, line 6 to page 24, line 4; Figs. 1B, 5
wherein each of the proximal and distal prostheses comprises an expandable stent and at least one fabric layer over and/or in the stent,	page 20, lines 17-21; page 23, line 22-page 24, line 13; Figs. 1B, 5
and wherein the cross-sectional area of the distal orifice of the proximal prosthesis when expanded is sufficiently less than the sum of the cross-sectional areas of the proximal ends of the distal prostheses when expanded within the distal orifice so as to form a seal with the distal orifice when the pair of distal prostheses are expanded therein.	page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 10; Fig. 5, 6